

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving one or more bid amounts for a keyword, wherein each bid amount is associated with a listing;

returning one or more listings responsive to a query associated with the keyword, wherein the listings are organized in an order associated with the respective bid amounts of the responsive listings;

receiving an indication that a selected listing included in the responsive listings has been selected; and

crediting to an entity that received a corresponding bid amount of the selected listing from an advertiser, a portion less than the full amount of the corresponding selected listing bid amount.

3. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising crediting to a provider that returned the local business listings responsive to the query a portion less than the full amount of the corresponding selected listing bid amount.

4. (New) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein addition of the portion credited to the entity and the portion credited to the provider equals the full amount of the corresponding selected listing bid amount.

5. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the listing is one or more of the following: a directory assistance listing and a local business listing.

6. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein at least one of the one or more bid amounts is based at least in part on a time value.
7. (New) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the time value is associated with a time at which a corresponding listing is selected.
8. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein at least one of the one or more bid amounts is based at least in part on a distance value.
9. (New) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the distance value is associated with the distance between a location associated with a listing and a location associated with one or more of the following: the query, a user of the query, and the provider.
10. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the listings are responsive to the query only if the listings are associated with a location within a distance value from a location associated with one or more of the following: the query, a user of the query, and the provider.
11. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein receiving the one or more bid amounts for the keyword includes synchronizing a shared database with one or more databases of one or more entities from which the one or bid amounts are received.
12. (New) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the synchronization is performed periodically.
13. (New) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the databases of entities includes at least two databases of different formats that synchronize with the same shared database.
14. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein query is associated with an interactive voice response system.
15. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein crediting to the entity includes placing transaction data in a queue.

16. (New) A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the transaction data is associated with a metadata that can be used to recover the crediting from a failure.

17. (New) A system, comprising:

a processor configured to receive one or more bid amounts for a keyword from one or more entities that have received the bid amounts from one or more advertisers, wherein each bid amount is associated with a listing, return one or more listings responsive to a query associated with the keyword, wherein the listings are organized in an order associated with the respective bid amounts of the responsive listings, receive an indication that a selected listing included in the responsive listings has been selected, and credit to the entity that received a corresponding bid amount of the selected listing from an advertiser, a portion less than the full amount of the corresponding selected listing bid amount; and

a memory coupled with the processor, wherein the memory is configured to provide the processor with instructions.

18. (New) A system as recited in claim 17, wherein the processor is further configured to credit to a provider that returned the local business listings responsive to the query a portion less than the full amount of the corresponding selected listing bid amount.

19. (New) A system as recited in claim 17, wherein at least one of the one or more bid amounts is based at least in part on one or more of the following: a time value and a distance value.

20. (New) A computer program product, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving one or more bid amounts for a keyword, wherein each bid amount is associated with a listing;

returning one or more listings responsive to a query associated with the keyword, wherein the listings are organized in an order associated with the respective bid amounts of the responsive listings;

receiving an indication that a selected listing included in the responsive listings has been selected; and

crediting to an entity that received a corresponding bid amount of the selected listing from an advertiser, a portion less than the full amount of the corresponding selected listing bid amount.

21. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 20, further comprising crediting to a provider that returned the local business listings responsive to the query a portion less than the full amount of the corresponding selected listing bid amount.